



- **CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA** was the name taken by six southern states when they organized their own government at Montgomery, Ala., in February, 1861. The states *seceded* (withdrew) from the government of the United States in 1860 and 1861 because they feared that the election of Abraham Lincoln, a Republican President, might lead to restrictions on their right to do as they chose about the question of Negro slavery. The first state to leave the Union was South Carolina on Dec. 20, 1860. Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana followed South Carolina's lead in January, 1861. In March, 1861, Texas also seceded, and later in that year Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee joined the ranks to make 11 Confederate States of America in all.

The idea of a state leaving the Union was not new,

CONFEDERATE CABINET

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| Secretary of State..... | Robert Toombs (1861) Robert M. T. Hunter (1861) Judah P. Benjamin (1862) |
| Secretary of the Treasury.... | Christopher Memminger (1861) George A. Trenholm (1864) |
| Secretary of War..... | Leroy P. Walker (1861) Judah P. Benjamin (1861) George W. Randolph (1862) Gustavus Smith (Acting) (1862) James A. Seddon (1862) John C. Breckinridge (1865) |
| Secretary of the Navy..... | Stephen R. Mallory (1861) |
| Postmaster General..... | John H. Reagan (1861) |
| Attorney General..... | Judah P. Benjamin (1861) Thomas Bragg (1861) Thomas Watts (1862) George Davis (1864) |

with ammunition, food, and clothing, while the army of the South often lacked these supplies. Union ships blockaded Southern ports. The only way the South could bring in necessary supplies from overseas was to run the blockade. But Southern soldiers fought bravely until there was no longer any hope of victory.

The Confederate Congress met in frequent sessions during the war, mainly to follow the bidding of President Davis, who made free use of his war powers. The Davis government lasted until the fall of Richmond, on April 3, 1865. Danville, Va., served as the capital after the fall of Richmond. The main Confederate army, the Army of Northern Virginia, surrendered on April 9, 1865. The people of the Confederacy had defended a way of living that to them seemed right. But they yielded to superior force. The road to reunion in spirit between the North and the South was long, but by the beginning of the 1900's resentment had been largely forgotten.

JOHN DONALD HICKS

Related Articles. See the History sections of the articles on the states of the Confederacy. See also:

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Benjamin, Judah P. | Lee, Robert E. |
| Border State | Mallory, Stephen R. |
| Breckinridge, John C. | Memminger, Christopher G. |
| Civil War | Nullification |
| Davis, Jefferson | Randolph (George W.) |
| Emancipation | Seddon, James A. |
| , Proclamation | Semmes, Raphael |
| Flag (Flags of the U.S.) | States' Rights |
| Fort Sumter | Stephens, Alexander H. |
| Gordon, John Brown | Walker, Leroy P. |
| Johnston, Joseph Eggleston | West Virginia (History) |

CONFEDERATE VETERANS, UNITED, was an organization of men who fought for the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. It was founded in 1889 in New Orleans to preserve the friendships formed during the war, and to help Confederate Civil War veterans, their widows, and their orphans.

CONFEDERATION. See ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION; CANADA, HISTORY OF (Confederation).

CONFESSION, in religion. See ALTAR; ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (The Seven Sacraments).

side of court, to officers of the law or to persons who are not officials.

Judges do not allow involuntary confessions to serve as evidence or proof in court. These confessions are obtained improperly, by such methods as injuring, threatening, or making promises to a suspect.

In 1966, in the case of *Miranda v. Arizona*, the Supreme Court of the United States established the chief safeguards for the rights of suspects. The court ruled that before police question a person in custody, they must inform that person of certain rights. For example, the person has the right to remain silent and to have a lawyer present during questioning. If the police do not observe a suspect's rights, the court will not accept as evidence the statements the suspect made to them.

Courts recognize several types of confessions. A *simple confession* is merely a plea of guilty. An *implied confession* is made when a defendant who has not pleaded guilty asks the court for a light sentence. The person thus indicates—but does not admit—guilt. An *indirect confession* is one that the court assumes from the conduct of the accused person.

In cases involving civil law, rather than criminal law, statements of guilt are called *admissions*. Civil law covers such matters as contracts, personal injuries, and property ownership. Admissions may serve as evidence but not as proof.

RONALD R. DAVENPORT

See also ESCOBEDO v. ILLINOIS; MIRANDA v. ARIZONA.

CONFIRMATION is a religious ceremony practiced by several faiths. In the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Lutheran churches, and in the Church of England, it is associated with baptism. Roman Catholics believe that it confers the grace of the Holy Spirit on baptized persons. In Protestant and Roman Catholic churches, the baptized renew and confirm the promises made for them at baptism. In Judaism, boys are confirmed at the age of 13 in a ceremony called *bar mitzvah*. Some temples have similar ceremonies for girls called *bas mitzvah*. Many also hold a confirmation exercise on Shabuot (see SHABUOT).

BERNARD RAMO

See also BAPTISM; BAR MITZVAH; BAS MITZVAH.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST occurs if an individual has a financial or other interest in a company doing business with his or her employer. For example, a person working for a government agency that awards contracts to private industry may have a financial interest in a company bidding for these contracts. A conflict of interest occurs if the government employee favors the company in which he or she has an interest. The conflict-of-interest issue often arises when business executives take positions in government. Full-time government employees are required to give up all outside financial interests that might conflict with their official duties. In 1977, Congress enacted a strict code of ethics, which included provisions to discourage conflicts of interest.

CHARLES O. JONES